

Lecture to Volunteers at Art Association, Saturday Morning Art Classes,
Circa 1940. Original in own hand.

I feel very much honoured in being your guest today & having an opportunity of speaking to you for a few min. It is difficult to focus our attention on anything other than the great events of the moment-

What right have you and I to sit complacently here mildly discussing aesthetics when we are all anxiously wondering what we can do to be of effective service to the country which is being bought for us at such a price - our responsibility is tremendous - we cannot die for it - we have to live for it & that is a very difficult thing to do - We are fortunate in that we have enjoyed an Education & have been nurtured in a cultural setting. We are very apt to take these things for granted - today nothing can be taken for granted - systems of living & associations may be utterly destroyed - life as we know it may be altered -

but -

the flowers will bloom another year -

the robins will still sing

Emily -

Dr. Martin - effort,

Healing instincts -

The Art Dept. in late years has developed into a very important faction in our Educational Programme.

I would like to tell you of the plan on foot for next year at the Art Gallery. Dr. Martin, that amazingly fine public-minded citizen - we all know his record at McGill & now he has taken hold of the Art Gallery & turned it into a living concern - He frankly admits that he knows nothing of Art but he knows that it is a healthy & necessary pursuit & most essential to the community. Like what has been done by so many of the Amer. Museums, he is devising a plan to bring the children from the public schools to the Gallery to be shown a movie & then to visit the Museum & to be given a short talk on some specific subject. This is voluntary work to be done by teachers in the schools - & they will contact that group - But I was thinking that there are other sources who have children in homes - the Mackey Institute the Settlements who are not going to be

provided for simply because the necessary guides cannot be provided for them - there is a big chance for some volunteers.

Another great field which is going to be opened is the Hospital work.

The Lady Tweedsmuir when she was asked to address the Can. Club this Sept. - in the face of the terrible condition of War when we expected to be plunged into a discussion of how best we could serve our country - she chose as her subject - "Keep the Arts Alive" -

In the face of the world tradgedy she realized that the only thing that survive the terrible onslaught is the spirit of man - & we have to turn towards things of the spiritual world as the great stabilizer of eternal quality -

Keep the Arts alive - the Arts are the humanities - the world has been ruled in the last 25 years by Science - & although we bow to the glories of those great minds which have brought such great benefits to mankind - the great medical research works - Mme Currie the immortal woman - the life giving Mme Currie - but it is owing to the misuse of Science that such frightful destruction is being wrought to-day -

Would it be possible to have the New Age which is to follow an age of the Arts - the great Humanities - the love of poetry - music - painting - sculpture - dancing. Surely the pursuit of these could never harm - What a world of pure joy we could have if our people had planted in their hearts the love of beauty - You may say that is all very well but how can I do anything about it -

You know as well as I do that people have to be educated to understand & appreciate things. We are witnessing a terrible example of what systematic eduction & propaganda can do - by appealing to the higher senses

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- we could educate & lift to the higher & happier realization of a life of the Arts for our children & our children,s children.

You are standing to-day in a most critical & at the same time most powerful position - you have the full strength of your life before you

You have been fortunate in having enjoyed a liberal & splendid Educ.
- through contact with Miss Harvey, Miss Seath & Miss Blanchard, worlds of beauty have been opened to you.

- For you have met and spent time - Beethoven - Handel - Schubert
- El Greco - Constable & Tom Thomson are - Shakespeare - Wordsworth - Emily Dickenson - are & Rupert Brooke -

- That is the safe guard against bitterness & disappointment - it will keep our spirits fresh & enthusiastic - we can be constantly refreshed by turning to these sources & our duty is to pass it onto contribute somehow to the community this point of view.

Ten thousand refugees - taken from their homes & loved ones - facing a new world of unknown strangeness - besides the necessary instruction which they are sure to be provided for - how can we help to give them something of the fun & delight which the creative life gives them -

The board of Trustees no doubt will put the Art Department down as frills - but that is where a volunteer group who realize its importance can be of invaluable definite assistance - & provide these children with a joy which nothing can take away from them & that is the way you learn I shall never forget my first drawing class was at the University Settlement - & I had my first valuable experiences there -